UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ICEF/1997/2
8 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
First regular session 1997
20-24 January 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

FOR ACTION

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

For the first regular session of 1997 of the Executive Board to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 to 24 January 1997

SUMMARY

The present document contains the annotated provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1997 of the Executive Board. The annex provides the proposed timetable and organization of work for the session.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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(b) Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work

Item 3: Country notes

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Item 5: Operational paper on selected issues relating to UNICEF emergency interventions

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(a) UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 and report of the Board of Auditors

(b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Item 14: Participation of the United Nations Population Fund in the UNICEF/World Health Organization Joint Committee on Health Policy

Item 15: Oral report on the outcome of consultations on Executive Board/secretariat relations

Item 16: Other matters

Item 17: Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President

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1/ Deferred from the third regular session of 1996.

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

(a) Election of the officers of the Executive Board for 1997

The first action following the opening of the session will be the election of the President and four Vice-Presidents representing the regional groups of the United Nations. In accordance with decision 1992/7 (E/ICEF/1992/14), the President of the Board will be nominated from among the Latin American and Caribbean group of States which are members of the Board.

(b) Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director

Following the election, introductory statements will be made by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director.

2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work
[FOR ACTION]

The provisional agenda has been structured in accordance with relevant Executive Board decisions, in particular the 1997 programme of work adopted by the Board at its third regular session in September 1996 (E/ICEF/1996/12/Rev.1, decision 1996/36). By error of omission, item 6 was not included at that time. The provisional annotated agenda has been shared with Board members (CF/EB/1996/087 of 8 November 1996). The timetable and organization of work are provided in the annex.

Draft decisions will be adopted as the discussion of each agenda item is concluded. However, if required, time will be set aside for Board members to consult informally on all outstanding draft decisions.

3. Country notes
[FOR INFORMATION - E/ICEF/1997/P/L.1-E/ICEF/1997/P/L.10]

In accordance with decision 1995/8 (E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1) on the consideration and approval of country programme recommendations (CPRs), the secretariat has prepared brief country notes for Board consideration. Designed to inform the Board at an early stage of the ideas regarding the mix and weight given to programme strategies and priorities, the country notes are for country programmes of cooperation to be implemented beginning 1998. Comments made by delegations will be shared with the Governments concerned. The country notes will be used in developing the final CPRs for submission to the Board at its third regular session of 1997.

The Board will have before it three country notes from the West and Central Africa region: Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau and Mali (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.1-E/ICEF/1997/P/L.3, respectively); three from the Americas and the Caribbean region: Bolivia, Venezuela and a multi-island programme for the Eastern Caribbean (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.4-E/ICEF/1997/P/L.6, respectively); two from the East

Asia and the Pacific region: Lao People's Democratic Republic and Papua New Guinea (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.7-E/ICEF/1997/P/L.8); one from the South Asia region: India (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.9); and one from the Middle East and North Africa region: Jordan (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.10).

Following an introductory statement on the country notes by the Director of Programme Division, each regional director will provide a brief overview of activities in his/her region as well as a summary of the country notes in the respective region being submitted at the present session.

4. Implementation of the health strategy for UNICEF

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/3]

In its decision 1995/28 on the health strategy for UNICEF adopted at its third regular session in September 1995, the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to report to the Board early in 1996 on the implementation of the health strategy, taking into account comments made at the Board. Originally scheduled for the second regular session of 1996 (decision 1995/38), the Board agreed that the report be presented to the third regular session (decision 1996/6).

During the discussion on the draft provisional agenda for the third regular session in September 1996 (E/ICEF/1996/18), the Executive Board agreed to consider an outline of the implementation of the health strategy for UNICEF (E/ICEF/1996/19) at the third regular session of 1996 on the understanding that the full implementation plan would be submitted to the Board for consideration and approval at the present session (decision 1996/36).

5. Operational paper on selected issues relating to UNICEF emergency interventions

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/7]

In its decision 1996/2 and annex on the mission and strategies of UNICEF emergency services adopted at its first regular session in January 1996, the Executive Board requested the secretariat, inter alia, to formulate operational papers on selected issues relating to UNICEF emergency interventions as a complement to the indicative list presented in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/56 of 28 July 1995. They were to be presented to the Board for information at relevant sessions during 1996 and 1997.

By the same decision, the Board also requested the secretariat to present a conceptual framework for UNICEF emergency interventions to its 1996 annual session. In its decision 1996/28 on the subject, the secretariat was requested to finalize the operational papers identified in the annex to decision 1996/2 and present them to the Board at the present session in a consolidated form, reflecting a clear conceptual framework together with its operational implications.

The Executive Board is requested to endorse the approach set out in this report.

6. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/5]

This report responds to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/33 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, which "urges the governing bodies of the relevant agencies to complete their consideration of the follow-up to Council resolution 1995/56 no later than their first regular sessions of 1997".

Comments by delegations as well as any Executive Board decision will be transmitted to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report on this subject to the Council at its substantive session of 1997.

7. Follow-up to relevant decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council

[FOR INFORMATION - E/ICEF/1997/4]

At its third regular session of 1995, the Board agreed that a comprehensive report on follow-up to decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council should be presented to the Board at the first regular session of the year following the substantive session of the Council (E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1, para. 470). This report responds to that decision.

8. Follow-up to the audit of the Kenya country office: final report

[FOR INFORMATION - E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.2]

Under this agenda item, the Board will have before it for information the final report on follow-up to the audit of the Kenya country office. It responds to decision 1995/27, adopted at the third regular session of 1995, in which the secretariat was requested to report to the Board at each session about all future audit activity in the Kenya office until the matter is resolved.

9. Management Excellence Programme

[FOR INFORMATION - E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.1]

This report updates progress made in the management excellence process, as requested by the Board at its third regular session of 1995 (decision 1995/25). It takes into account comments made by delegations as well as decision 1996/32 adopted by the Board at the third regular session in September 1996.

10. Harmonization of presentation of budgets: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.3]

This item was originally scheduled to be included on the agenda of the third regular session in September 1996 (decision 1995/37). However, following presentation of the oral progress report on this subject at the second regular session of 1996, the Board requested the secretariat to submit the initial proposals for review and approval, through the Advisory Committee, at its first regular session in January 1997 (decision 1996/16).

This report responds to that request and is also being presented to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund for review and approval. The report describes the agreements on (a) a common format for presentation of their biennial support budgets; (b) common terms and definitions related thereto; and (c) a common methodology for the preparation of budget estimates.

The Board will also have before it for review the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on this document (E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.6).

11. Proposal on integrated budgeting in UNICEF

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.4]

At its third regular session of 1995, the Board took note of the secretariat's intention to submit to the third regular session of 1997 an integrated budget for field offices (decision 1995/31). An integrated budget for headquarters and regional offices covering 1996-1997 has already been approved by the Board at its second regular session of 1996 (decisions 1996/10-14).

This document reports on progress in the integrated budgeting process being undertaken by the secretariat as requested by the Board at its second regular session of 1996 (decision 1996/10). In the same document, the secretariat also requests Board approval to shift consideration of the "Biennial support budget" for 1998-1999 from the third regular session in September 1997 to the first regular session in January 1998.

The Board will also have before it for review the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on this document (E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.7).

12. Revised budget for 1996-1997

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.5]

In accordance with decision 1995/6 adopted at the first regular session of 1995, the revisions to the 1996-1997 biennial budget derive from the recommendations of the Management Excellence Programme. The document also responds to decision 1996/10, adopted at the second regular session of 1996, in which the secretariat is requested to inform the Board at a very early stage about possible revisions. It is submitted to the Board for review and approval.

The Board will also have before it for review the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on this document (E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.7).

13. Financial matters

The following two reports were deferred from the third regular session of 1996 to allow the Board to get the report of the Board of Auditors and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on

this. The Board would also have the benefit of having input from the deliberations of the Fifth Committee on these issues.

(a) UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 and the report of the Board of Auditors

[FOR INFORMATION - Supplement No. 5B (A/51/5/Add.2)]

This report is presented to the Board for information. This year it is submitted in line with General Assembly resolution 50/204 of 23 December 1995 aimed at achieving the harmonization of the presentation of the accounts of agencies in the United Nations system.

(b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

[FOR INFORMATION - E/ICEF/1996/AB/L.14]

As an ongoing practice, and pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 48/216 C of 23 December 1993, 49/216 of 23 December 1994, 50/204 A to C of 23 December 1995 and decision 48/501 of 19 December 1994, UNICEF has been submitting a report to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to advise the Assembly as to the measures that the organization will take to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors.

The present report reviews the implementation by UNICEF of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors in its report on the UNICEF accounts for the biennium 1994-1995. The report also discusses the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for the biennium 1992-1993. It is submitted to the Board for information.

14. Participation of the United Nations Population Fund in the UNICEF/World Health Organization Joint Committee on Health Policy

[FOR ACTION - E/ICEF/1997/6]

At the third regular session in September, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) addressed the Board under the agenda item on the outline of the report on the implementation plan of the health strategy for UNICEF. He reported that in its recent decision 96/38, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/UNFPA Executive Board had requested its President to determine the views of the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF Executive Boards on the possible membership of the UNDP/UNFPA Board in the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP). The decision also requested that appropriate action be taken to allow the UNFPA secretariat to participate in the January 1997 JCHP meeting as an active observer.

Following a brief discussion, during which the meeting was advised that the next JCHP meeting would not take place in January but later in the year, the Board agreed to address the issue at the present session so as to permit consultations with capitals. This report responds to that decision.

15. Oral report on the outcome of consultations on Executive Board/secretariat relations

The small secretariat working group appointed by the Executive Director to work on this issue held two meetings with the Bureau on this subject. The working group also met informally with the Board to discuss a working paper formulated by a small group of Board members. This oral report will report on these consultations.

16. Other matters

The Board may consider discussing any other issues that it finds timely and appropriate under this agenda item.

17. Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President

The Executive Director and the President of the Executive Board will make concluding remarks, followed by the closure of the session.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1997 OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 20-24 JANUARY 1997*

MONDAY, 20 JANUARY	a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the session: (a) Election of the officers of the Executive Board for 1997 (b) Opening statements by the President of the Executive Board and the Executive Director
		Item 2	Adoption of the provisional agenda and timetable and organization of work
		Item 3	Country notes
	p.m.	Item 3 (cont'd)	Country notes (continued)
TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY	a.m.	Item 4	Implementation of the health strategy for UNICEF
	p.m.	Item 5	Operational paper on selected issues relating to UNICEF emergency interventions
		Item 6	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
WEDNESDAY, 22 JANUARY	a.m.	Item 6 (cont'd)	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 and 1996/33 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (continued)
		Item 7	Follow-up to relevant decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council
	p.m.	Item 8	Follow-up to the audit of the Kenya country office: final report
		Item 9	Management Excellence Programme
THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY	a.m.	Item 10	Harmonization of presentation of budgets: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF
		Item 11	Proposal on integrated budgeting in UNICEF
	p.m.	Item 12	Revised budget for 1996-1997
		Item 13	Financial matters: (a) UNICEF financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 and report of the Board of Auditors (b) Report to the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY	a.m.	Item 14	Participation of the United Nations Population Fund in the UNICEF/World Health Organization Joint Committee on Health Policy
		Item 15	Oral report on the outcome of consultations on Executive Board/secretariat relations
	p.m.	Item 16	Other matters
		Item 17	Closing of the session: remarks by the Executive Director and the President

* When consideration of an agenda item concludes ahead of the allocated time, the next item on the agenda will be taken up for consideration and the timetable adjusted accordingly.